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be burnt into lime; but most of their pedestals are still standing, though quite buried under ground; and on these pedestals were most of the sculptures and inscriptions taken by Mr. Loftus. These sculptures and inscriptions, transferred to moistened brown paper placed upon them, were very successfully and accurately preserved; and they gave me a more vivid impression on the whole subject of antiquities than any thing I have ever seen, except the scenes I witnessed, with unspeakable delight, mingled with awe and admiration, while walking among the marble palaces of ancient Nineveh.

"The great similarity between the palaces of Susa and Persepolis, will not appear strange, when we have in mind the practice of modern kings of Persia, to occupy similarly built palaces in different and often distant portions of the empire, at different seasons of the year, thus avoiding the extreme heats of summer and the cold of winter.

"Near the ruins of Susa, is the reputed tomb of Daniel, a humble brick dome, resorted to, from time immemorial, by almost numberless Jewish pilgrims. Of course, due weight must be given to this immemorial tradition.

"Mr. Loftus has also made interesting discoveries, in the Bactiæ mountains, of inscriptions, which he has in like manner copied. He thinks that he has also found the Ur of the Chaldees, the home of Abraham, in lower Mesopotamia, where there are mounds forty or forty-five feet high, formed entirely of earthen coffins, (and their contents,) the interior of which is glazed. I am not sufficiently confident that I correctly remember the modern name of this locality to give it to you. All these discoveries will of course in due time be given to the world in a proper form, and I forbear to run the risk of marring their interest, by attempting any particular description of them, which would necessarily be very imperfect. Copies of many of the inscriptions are already in the hands of Col. Rawlinson, and specimens have been sent to the British Museum.

"The day seems thus to have come, for this old Eastern world to yield up its long buried, but priceless treasures, to the research of antiquarians; as the more newly discovered portions of the earth are revealing their mineral riches, and science and art are daily astonishing and blessing mankind with their triumphs. These all, we trust, are to act as the handmaids of the Gospel, and contribute materially to hasten the time when the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun, seven-fold."



V. BARTH AND OVERWEG EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL AFRICA.

From the *London Athenæum*, Nos. 1309, 1314, 1315, we gather some particulars of the progress of this important Expedition. In the latter part of 1851, an attempt was made to explore Borgu and Waday, on the East of Lake Tsad, under the protection of an army sent out by the Sultan of Bornu; but the army being soon met by the enemy and defeated, the travellers barely escaped with their lives and instruments. Soon after this, under the cover of another foray made by the Sultan of Bornu, the country of Mandara, to the South of Bornu, was visited, and found to be "most fertile and rich." The foray lasted through December, 1851, and January, 1852. Between the end of March and the end of May, 1852, Dr. Overweg

made a journey South-West from Lake Tsad, to within 150 English miles of Yacoba, in the Fellah country, and returned; while Dr. Barth went South-East, to the kingdom of Bagirmi, whence he returned on the 20th of August last. Both journeys were successful, and may lead to important results. Yacoba is situated on a branch of the Tchadda, which is itself a branch of the Kawāra, or Niger; so that in that direction communication was almost opened from the centre of the continent to the sea-coast. "Dr. Barth collected a large mass of valuable information respecting the history, geography, and ethnography of Bagirmi and Waday,—which he has embodied in an account addressed to the Foreign Office." He also "collected copious vocabularies of the languages of Lógène, Bagirmi, and Waday,—and less complete vocabularies, each containing about two hundred words, of not less than eight other languages." Dr. Barth's explorations have thrown much light upon the water-courses of that part of Africa on the East, South-East and South of Lake Tsad; and, when last heard from, he had obtained information reaching to the basin of the Nile, for he was told, on authority which he could rely upon, of a route leading to "*the banks of a very considerable river flowing westward*, so large that they could not make out persons standing on the other side, and which they were unable to cross."

The latest date at which the Expedition had been heard from, when the foregoing was written, was August 21, 1852. The *London Athenæum*, No. 1322, gives us information down to the 12th of last October. On the 27th of September, Dr. Overweg fell a victim to his devotion to the enterprize in which he was engaged, at the early age of thirty years. But Dr. Barth, undaunted, was determined to follow up the results already obtained. Dr. Vogel, a distinguished astronomer and botanist, was on his way to join the Expedition, most happily, on the very day the news of Dr. Overweg's death was received. There is reason to hope, therefore, that these important explorations will not be given up. Among the communications last received is a map of Central Africa from 4° to 15° N. L. and 8° to 23° E. L., of which Prof. Petermann says: "I have no hesitation in pronouncing this map as the most comprehensive and complete that has ever resulted from the travels and researches of any single African traveller."

E. E. S.

VI. UNITED STATES EXPEDITION TO JAPAN.

In November last, the U. S. steam-frigate Mississippi sailed from Annapolis, bearing the flag of Commodore Perry, as commander of